

REMARKS

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). The Examiner has indicated that the Applicant may label the figures 1A-1D. The drawings have been amended consistent with the recommendation of the Examiner.

The Specification has been amended consistent with the amendments to the drawings.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 22 stands objected to by the examiner for using the word "then" which should be --than--. Claim 22 has been accordingly corrected.

Claims 11, 12-14, 16, 22-24, 26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Amendments consistent with the Examiner's rejections have been made to the claims.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 14-20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 2441928 to Banker.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection under section 102(b). Banker shows a combined wedging members/flyweights in which the flyweight is disposed on opposite the pivot axis from the wedging members. Hence, when the flyweights of Banker move radially outwardly with increased rotational speed, the wedging members move radially inwardly. The independent claims of the present invention all require that the wedging members move radially outwardly with the flyweights. This arrangement is superior over that taught by Banker in that the claimed arrangement is more compact, with the flyweight and the wedging member being disposed on a single side of the pivot axis.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14-20, 22, 23, and 25-28 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 2907433 to Maurice et al. in view of US Patent 3696901 to Henry.

This combination fails, as it does not reach each and every limitation of the independent claims. Neither of the references shows or suggests a flyweight capable of radial movement about an axis parallel to the input shaft to provide the desired clamping force. Maurice employs flyweights that move radially about an axis in a direction transverse to the input shaft. Henry does not have any pivoting elements at all. Neither does it have any type of pressure plate. The Examiner, in the Response to Arguments section, seems to state that the limitation restricting the motion of the flyweights to that "about a pivot axis parallel to said input shaft" has no effect by saying that there are an infinite number of pivots axes. Applicant finds the Examiner's argument confusing. The Examiner's argument seems to rely on a novel interpretation of the word "about" to conclude that the orientation of the axis is not relevant. It is Applicant's intent, as established by this record, that the word "about" is used in its conventional sense to mean "around." Hence, even if the system of Maurice had an infinite number of pivot axes parallel to the input shaft, the flyweights of Maurice would still not move "about" them.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request allowance of the application and notification of the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0275.

Respectfully submitted,



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KMH:tab

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 1 has been amended, dividing it into Figure 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D to provide individual labeling for each of the elements found on that sheet. The bracket has been eliminated. The label "FIG 1" has been deleted. Labels "FIG 1A", "FIG 1B", "FIG 1C", and "FIG 1D" have been placed proximate to each of the four main elements of the drawing. The changes are shown in red in the accompanying marked-up Annotated Sheet that comprises the following page of this paper. The replacement sheet is provided in clean copy form herewith.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet
Replacement Sheet

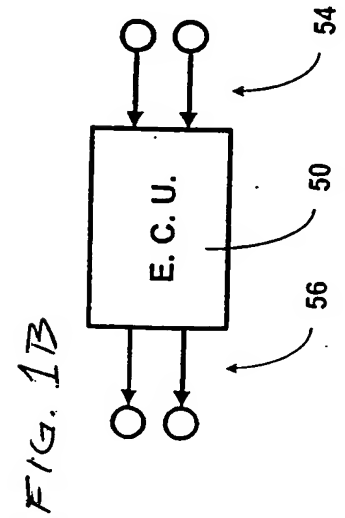
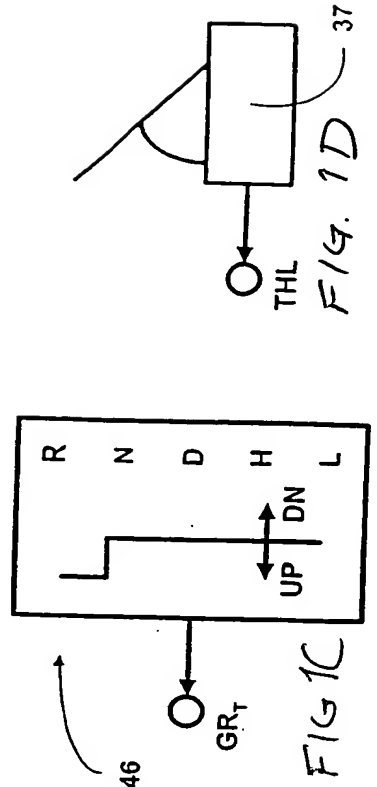
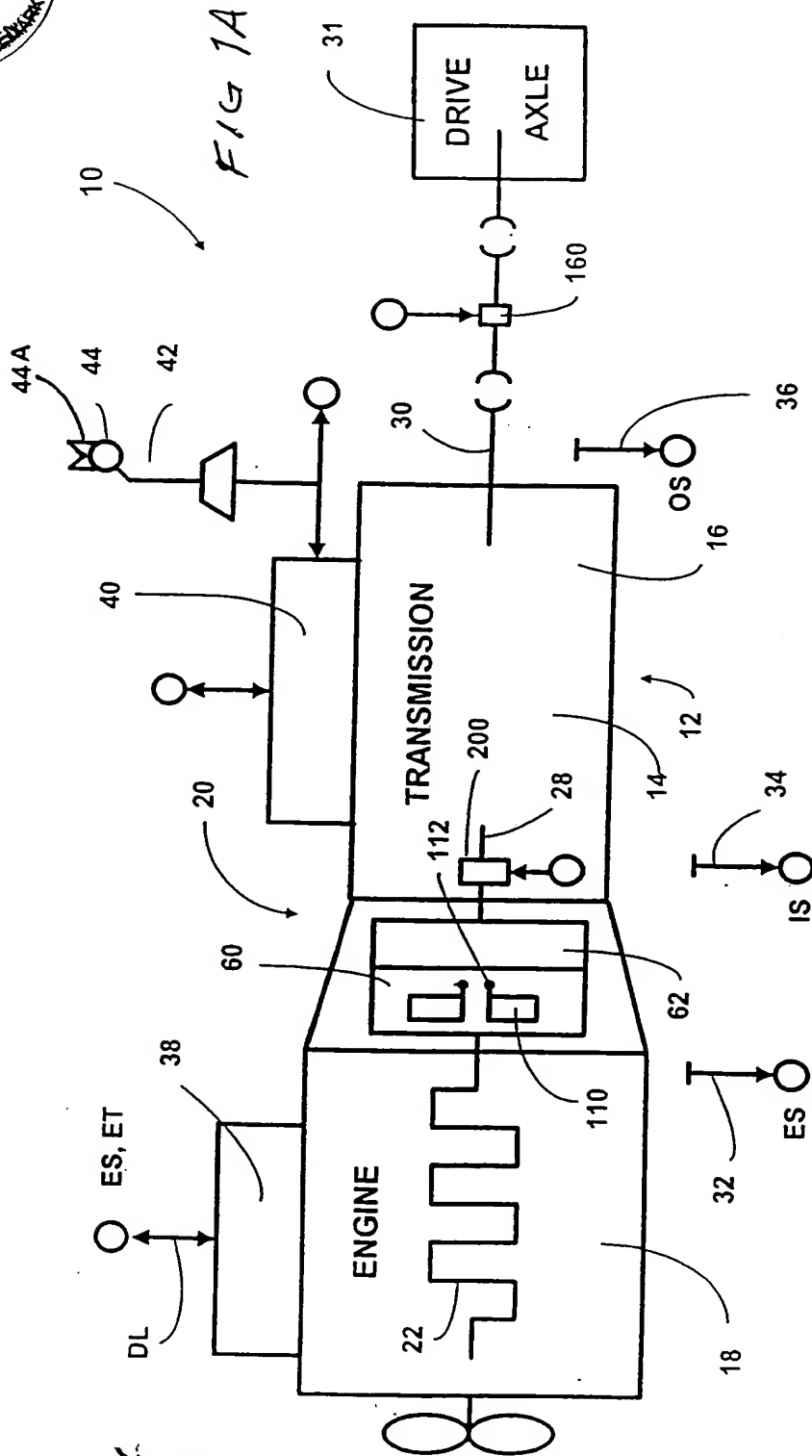


FIG. 1